Table of Contents

1. Allegiances
2. Prologue
3. Chapter One
4. Chapter Two
5. Chapter Three
6. Chapter Four
7. Chapter Five
8. Chapter Six
9. Chapter Seven
10. Chapter Eight
11. Chapter Nine
12. Chapter Ten
13. Chapter Eleven
14. Chapter Twelve
15. A/N
16. A/N
17. Chapter Thirteen
18. A/N
19. Chapter Fourteen
20. Chapter Fifteen
21. A/N
22. Chapter Sixteen
23. Chapter Seventeen
24. Chapter Eighteen
25. Chapter Nineteen
26. A/N

Allegiances

Leader Petalstar- light gray she-cat

Deputy Echopool- gray-and-silver she-cat

Medicine Cat Ashpool- light gray she-cat with barely-visible silver stripes and sky blue eyes

Warriors
Nightspirit- slender black tom with blue eyes
Mousetooth- tabby she-cat
Treeshine- light brown she-cat with white paws and green eyes
Hairypelt- long-furred brown tom
Branchfur- long-legged tabby tom
Jaggedclaw- brown tom with broken claws and amber eyes
Stormstripe- gray-and-white she-cat with blue-gray eyes
Firestorm- ginger tom(apprentice- Leafpaw)
Cloudpelt- fluffy white tom (apprentice- Littlepaw)

Apprentices
Leafpaw- light brown she-cat with amber eyes
Littlepaw- ginger tom with very small paws

Queens
Cinderlight- light brown she-cat with white paws
Tawnyheart- tortishell-and-white she-cat

Kits
Cinderlight's-
Sandkit- ginger she-cat
Windkit- silver-and-gray she-cat
Tawnyheart's-
Hailkit- dark gray tom
Rainkit- blue-gray she-cat with black stripes, white paws and ice-blue eyes

Shadowclan

Leader Duskstar- dark gray she-cat
Deputy Darkheart- very dark gray tom with dark blue eyes
Medicine Cat Grasswhisker- brown tom
Warriors
Appledawn- pale gray she-cat
Tigereyes- dark brown she-cat with odd eyes
Graynose- dark gray tom (apprentice-Brackenpaw)
Scorchfur- tabby tom
Scarface- brown tom with battle - scarred face (apprentice-Lionpaw)
Stonefall- long-legged gray she-cat
Patchtail- black-and-white tom
Splashfur- blue-gray she-cat
Sorrelfall- gray she-cat
Redpatch- white tom with ginger spots (apprentice- Antpaw)

Apprentices
Antpaw- ginger-and-black tom
Lionpaw- gold-ginger tom
Brackenpaw- tabby tom

Queens
Poppyfur- black she-cat

Kits
Poppyfur's-
Lightningkit- gray tom with darker stripes and forest green eyes
Petalkit- pretty black she-cat with green eyes

Elders
Beestripe- scrawny black-striped gray tom

River clan
Leader Beaverstar- brown tabby tom
Deputy Sunpelt- ginger tom
Medicine Cat Sootpelt- gray tom

Warriors
Snowdrop- white she-cat (apprentice- Amberpaw)
Oakfang- brown tabby tom
Silverstone- gray she-cat

Adderclaw- brown tom with long front claws
Sweetfur- white she-cat with ginger patches
Bluepelt- blue-gray she-cat (apprentice- Beetlepaw)
Poolfur- silver she-cat
Blackstripe- white tom with black stripes (apprentice- Lilypaw)
Shimmerwave- silver she-cat
Ivystream- gray she-cat with a long tail

Apprentices
Lilypaw- silver she-cat
Amberpaw- brown she-cat
Beetlepaw- black tom

Queens
Blossampelt- cream-colored she-cat

Kits
Dustkit- dark gray tom

Elders
Icefang- white tom

Windclan
Leader Birdstar- black-and-white she-cat
Deputy Ravenpelt- black tom with a white-tipped tail
Medicine Cat Sunnyleaf- ginger she-cat

Warriors
Breezefur- black tom
Bramblepelt- brown tom
Heatherclaw- light brown she-cat
Weasleheart- small brown tabby tom
Skyfang- light gray she-cat
Seedfall- brown-speckled white she-cat
Whitewater- white she-cat with gray stripes (apprentice- Fernpaw)
Wildheart- white tom with brown stripes
Rowantooth- dark brown she-cat
Twistedfoot- brown tom with a twisted hind leg (apprentice- Gorsepaw)

Apprentices

Gorsepaw- brown long-legged tom
Fernpaw- brown long-legged she-cat

Queens
Marigoldwing- gold-colored she-cat

Kits
Leopardkit- gold-colored she-cat with brown specks
Lionkit- gold-colored tom with bright amber eyes

Elders
Robinfur- dark ginger she-cat with many battle scars
Thrushpelt- blind tabby tom; oldest cat in WindClan

Cats Outside Clans
Sapphire- friendly siamese cat with unusual blue eyes, sister of Ruby
Ruby- siamese she-cat with amber eyes and a gray tint to her fur, sister of Sapphire
Cinamon- ginger tabby she-cat with green eyes

Prologue

It was leaf-bare. The clan had gone through snowstorms, attacks, and terrible bouts of greencough. Ashpool, the medicine cat, had also encountered something...odd. A tiny kit had fallen from the sky two days after Ashpool had gone to the moonpool. This worried her.
Maybe it's a sign? She thought, *Or maybe just my imagination.* She believed it was a sign.

Ashpool hadn't gone to her place in the forest for no reason, though. She was meeting someone- someone important.

Suddenly, a dark shape moved into the moonlight, gray fur sparkling silver.

"Greetings Ashpool."

"Darkheart, don't sneek up on me like that!"

The dark gray cat smiled.

"Ah, but then who could I sneak up on?"

Ashpool didn't answer. It was for the best. Give him something to argue about, he could be there for days, explaining to himself how he was wrong.

Something wasn't right, though. She could feel it. Ashpool knew her sister was soon going to give birth to her kits, but that couldn't be happening. *It can't,* she thought.

"Ashpool? Is everything okay?" the dark warrior asked. He twined his tail with hers, attempting to comfort her, but the gray she-cat pulled away. This couldn't happen. *We-this- it just doesn't work.*

"Darkheart. We-"

"I know. I came to tell you-"

"It's settled then. We will never see each other again." How ever much Ashpool told herself it was for the best, she still felt regretful. She always thought Starclan had led her to Darkheart, and that her heart chose to be with him, like Leafpool, an ancient Thunderclan medicine cat had told her.

"Well, goodbye then." the dark gray tom said.

"Goodbye..."

Chapter One

"Rainkit! Get back here!"

A young, blue-gray kit was scampering around camp, causing lots of trouble.

Her mother, Tawnyheart, was attempting to catch her.

"Never! I am the fearless, awesome Rainstar!"the kit exclaimed. Her brother, Hailkit, looked at her from the nursery.

She scampered over to Hailkit.
"And this is Hailheart, my loyal deputy!"

"But 'Hailheart' is a terrible name!" her brother retorted. Suddenly, a warrior sprang out of their den and landed in front of Rainkit. She crashed into the tabby tom, realizing it was her father.

"Daddy!" Rainkit exclaimed with joy.

"What are you doing over here, Rainkit?"

"I'm not *Rainkit.* I'm Rainstar!"

"Ah. Feirce little leader, now, are you?"

She growled in response and pounced on her father's tail.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey join here beneath the Highrock!" Rainkit looked up. Petalsar, the leader, stood on the Highrock. She bounded over. *Maybe I'm becoming an apprentice!*
But Sandkit and Windkit sat at the base of the huge rock, chests swelling with pride and joy. *Mouse-dung. Now Sandkit will be* even *bossier!* She thought, disappointed.

"Windkit and Sandkit have reached their sixth moon, and are ready to become apprentices. From this day forward Windkit will be known as Windpaw. Branchfur will be your mentor. Branchfur, you

have qualities of a good mentor, and I trust you will pass on your qualities to Windpaw."
My father *is Windpaw's mentor? Wow.*

Sandkit, from this moment forward, you will be known as Sandpaw. Jagged claw will be your mentor. Jaggedclaw, you have good sense, and I trust you will pass on your strength and sense to Sandpaw."

"Go Windpaw!" Hailkit called out. Rainkit looked at him. He looked back at her, and smiled. Sandpaw was bounding over to the other apprentices. *I can't wait to be an apprentice!*

Rainkit looked up as Petalstar as she called the can't attention. "I have another announcement to make. I am expecting Firestorm's kits!" At this she hopped off the rock and the clan started congradulating her. Some cats were saying how they 'knew it would it happen' and 'I'm not too surprised.' Firestorm's chest was swelled in pride.

Petalstar and Firestorm walked over to the leader's den and sat down. The other warriors departed, and the new apprentices went off with their mentors. Ashpool went to her den. Rainkit followed.

"Well, hello, Rainkit. How are you?" Ashpool said, noticing Rainkit.
"Good. What's this?" She answered, pointing her tail at a small, purple purple flower. "That's lavender. It cures fever." Ashpool meowed.
"Did you give it to Hailkit when he got a fever? It smells familiar."
"I did, Rainkit, you're very good at remembering." Rainkit pounced over to another plant, a pile of yellow petals, with joy.

"And this is marigold? For infections." Ashpool nodded. She started to show Rainkit other herbs, and told her their uses. *Wow,* She thought, *That's a lot of plants.*

"Rainkit!" Her mother called to her.
"Coming mama! Bye Ashpool!" She scampered off. *I want to be a medicine cat!*

She went to her nest and curled up next to Tawnyheart, and fell into a dreamless sleep.

Hi guys! Sorry it takes me so long to write stuff. So about every five chapters I'll make new alligiances cuz it might be hard to keep track of who is who. Please comment and keep reading!

Chapter Two

Rainkit woke up the next day, her mind spinning with names of plants.
Her decision was definate. She wanted to be a medicine cat!

"Hey Mama!"

"Yes, Rainkit?"

"Can I be medicine cat?" Tawnyheart looked a little disturbed, but her face changed quickly. "Of course, Rainkit." She answered. Rain kit's mother still looked a bit odd, as if she was thinking about something bad. *I'm becoming medicine cat!* was all Rainkit could think for the day. Is she was playing, she thought how she would treat cats' wounds and pretended to carry herbs around in her mouth. While she was play-hunting, she found a small, black seed pod. She brought it to Ashpool, and Ashpool told her, "This is poppy seed. It can help you sleep if you are having trouble." Rainkit was amazed. She was even more intent on becoming a medicine cat.

"Oh, guess what!" Rainkit exclaimed, excited.

"What, Rainkit?"

"I'm becoming a medicine cat!"

Ashpool looked surprised.

"That's great! But you know it will be hard work." Rainkit was too happy to listen. She leaped towards the nursery, where Hailkit was watching Sandpaw and Windpaw leave.
"Hey, watching Windpaw again?"
Hailkit was startled by Rainkit's mew.
"What are you doing here?" He asked, panicking.

"Umm, living?"

"Well, don't sneak up on me!" He snapped, and turned away into the

nursery. *Well, I am sorry.* Rainkit looked back at Ashpool before wandering into the nusery.

☆ ☆ ☆

Rainkit was excited when she woke up the morning of her sixth moon. *We're becoming apprentices!* Petalstar had already jumped onto the Highrock. Some cats were surprised, as she had moved into the nursery a moon ago. But Rainkit didn't care. She was more excited than Tawnyheart, Branchfur, and Hailkit put together!
"Let all cats old enough to catch teir own prey join here beneath the Highrock! Today we have the naming if two new apprentices!" Petalstar called. "Hailkit, Rainkit, come forward. Hailkit has reached his sixth moon and is old enough to become an apprentice. From this day forward, you will be known as Hailpaw."

Hailpaw looked sideways at Rainkit. Then at Windpaw.
"Stormstripe will be your mentor. Stormstripe, I hope you will pass down your fighting skills to Hailpaw. Rainkit has also reached her sixth moon, and is old enough to become an apprentice. As she and Ashpool have requested, Rainkit will become medicine cat apprentice. From this day forward, until you have earned your full medicine cat name, you will be known as Rainpaw. Ashpool will be your mentor." As Petalstar finished, her face twisted in pain.
What's happening? Rainpaw wondered, confused. Her new mentor was running to Petalstar, and another warrior was telling other cats to get away, except for Firestorm.
Her kits are coming! Rainpaw realized. Petalstar stated to yowl in pain. *If that's what it's like to have kits, I don't think I would ever want to have any*, she thought.

Ashpool was hurriedly getting herbs from her den. "Rainpaw! Come here!" Rainpaw ran over to her mentor. *What do I do?* She briefly wondered. Petalstar's belly gave a great heave, and her first kit was born. *It's kinda cute!* Ashpool looked expectedly at Rainpaw. *Oh, I'm supposed to lick it.* Rainpaw licked the black kit. Petalstar yow led once more, and her second and last kit was born.

"One tom, and one she-kit!" Ashpool exclaimed. Petalstar looked exhausted, but she still pulled her kits lose to her belly, her chest swelling with pride. Firestorm bounded over, and the two mates

started sharing tounges.

Rainpaw followed Ashpool into the medicine den, hoping she did well. *Did I do it right?*

"You are learning already. That's good." Ashpool muttered. Rainpaw was astonished. She bounced around, knocking things over, until Ashpool told her to stop. Rainpaw yawned. "I'm tired." She said.

"Make a nest and sleep then." Rainpaw did what she was told. She gathered some moss, layer down, and fell asleep.

Hey, people! Again, sorry it takes so long, but I try! I know it's early, but see if you can guess which two cats are extremely important that are *NO* T in Thunderclan.
Hint: One is a kit, one is a deputy.

Chapter Three

The dark gray cat was walking closer. "We could be together." he said. "No. I- I have to be here. For my clan." a lighter gray cat stepped away, and fled into the forest.

Rainpaw suddenly jumped to her paws. *What was that about?* Rainpaw's dream had disturbed her, but she decided it was nothing. "Rainpaw!"

Ashpool was calling Rainpaw to the back of the den. Rainpaw padded to the herb storage place.

"Alright. Do you know what this is?" Ashpool pointed her tail at a clump of black seeds. "That's poppy seed!"

Ashpool smiled at Rainpaw. "That's right. Now what is this?" She pointed her tail at some yellow flowers.

"Um...marigold?" Rainpaw says, unsure. "That's right!" Ashpool sounded extremely happy. "You're learning well!"

Wow, what is Ashpool so happy about? Rainpaw thought.

"Ashpool, Petalstar needs you." Firestorm walked into the medicine cat den, a worried expression on his face. Ashpool walked out, and Rainpaw was alone. *Hm. What's that smell?* She decided it was nothing.

Rainpaw looked around, and saw a brief flash of gray fur. *Ashpool?* She thought. *No, probably just a mouse or something.*

☆☆☆

Later that day, Rainpaw is sorting herbs when Jaggedclaw came rushing in, holding a battered Sandpaw in his mouth. He carefully puts her down, showing her twisted leg. "She was hit by a monster." He says.

Rainpaw stares at Sandpaw's leg and nods. *A monster.* She covers the other aprentice's leg with cobweb, and starts to mix some herbs together. *I hope I'm doing this right.*

Sandpaw whimpers whenever Rainpaw touches her leg. Rainpaw carefully puts a marigold leaf over the largest cut and covers it with cobweb. Jaggedclaw silently exits the medicine den. Rainpaw gave Sandpaw a poppy seed, and she fell asleep almost instintly.

Suddenly, Rainpaw heard a familiar yowl. *Hailpaw?* She padded out of the den and saw her brother and his mentor wildly running into camp, with what seemed like the whole of Shadowclan behind them.

Cliffhanger! What will happen? Will someone die? Wait for the next chapter to fund out!

Chapter Four

Rainpaw wildly looks around for her mentor. *Ashpool, where are you?* She gives a sigh of relief when she sees Ashpool emerge from the fight.

Firestorm is running to the nursery, and Petalstar and Ashpool are in the safety of some brambles.

What do do? Rainpaw wildly looks around, seeing a gray cat, about her size, running for the medicine den. Rainpaw hisses at the cat and rears back, swiping at his face. He jerks his head and barrels into Rainpaw. The tom holds her down as Rainpaw tries to get away from the cat.

I have to protect Sandpaw! Rainpaw suddenly realizes. She goes limp, and the cat relaxes his grip. Rainpaw surges upward, showing off the cat.
She runs to the entrance of the medicine den and stands in front of it. She sees Petalstar laying down, her kits at her belly, and Ashpool crouching next to her. She lets out a sigh of relief. *The kits are okay.* Rainpaw hears a shreik, and whips her head around. The gray tom had broken into the medicine den.

Rainpaw rushed inside, and stared at the cat. "Get out of here!" She hisses. The tom turned around, saw Rainpaw and sat down with an amused look. *What is he doing?* Rainpaw crouhed, and bared her teeth. He stares at her, and cocks his head. Rainpaw stood up and frowned. "Why are just sitting there?"

"I'm Lightningpaw."

"Okay, Lightningpaw, why are you just sitting there?"

Lightningpaw smirks. "I know I'm a better fighter than you, so I'm not going to fight you."

Rainpaw flicks her tail in annoyance. *You asked for it!* She leaps at

him, claws extended, but Lightningpaw easily dodges, grabbing Rainpaw's scruff and holding her in the air.

"Hey! Let go!"

Lightningpaw releases Rainpaw, but keeps a strong paw planted on her chest, claws sheathed. They hear a yowl outside. Lightningpaw releases Rainpaw, and bolts outside. Rainpaw cautiously follows, and the sight in the middle of the clearing made her gasp.

She saw the tattered, bleeding form of Cinderlight, Sandpaw and Windpaw's mother.

Chapter Five

"No."

Rainpaw was pushing Sandpaw, trying to get her out of the den. "You're healed," she said, "Go train or something." Rainpaw knew that neither Sandpaw nor herself had gotten over the death of the popular queen. *I'm pretty sure no one has,* she thought.

"No."

"Move."

"NO!"

Sandpaw wrapped her tail tighter around herself. *This is going to take a while.* Ashpool entered, her face weary and her eyes dull. *Oh no,* Rainpaw thought, *not another sickness.*

Sandpaw looked up. She sighed and stood, shakily, to her paws and limped out of the den. "Ashpool," Rainpaw began, "who is it now?"

Ashpool lowered her head. "It's Tawnyheart. She's fatally ill." Rainpaw gasped. *Mother? But she was fine.* Rainpaw turned to look outside, and saw Tawnyheart walking to the fresh-kill pile, and broke into a bought of coughing. Rainpaw cringed. "ShadowClan has clearly left it's mark." Rainpaw observed, leading the subject away from the sickness. Nearly the whole camp had been destroyed, even the nursery had been attacked. Ashpool nodded and collected some catmint together to take to Petalstar. Rainpaw quickly followed her mentor to the leader's den.

Petalstar was curled around her two kits, Nightkit and Flowerkit. Firestorm, who was pacing outside of the den, turned to Rainpaw. As Ashpool walked in, he stopped Rainpaw and bent down to whisper to her, "She says she's fine, but Petalstar coughs all night. I was hoping you could convince her to let Ashpool treat her." Rainpaw nodded quickly and followed Ashpool through the curtain

of vines.

"You need to take it!"
"No I don't!"

"I'm your medicine cat, I can tell when you're sick."

Petalstar shook her head and pushed the leaf away from her. Ashpool muttered something under her breath. Firestorm tried to enter, but Ashpool shook her head and told him to stay out. Nightkit jumped up and ran after his father.

"Petalstar," Rainpaw began cautiously, "you don't want your kits to get sick, do you?" Petalstar shook her head. She smiled weakly at Rainpaw and took the leaf in her mouth. "You have a very smart apprentice there, Ashpool," she commented.

Rainpaw beamed triumphantly. The grey she-cat exited the den, seeing Hailpaw and Windpaw playing. She felt a stab of longing, wishing to be able to be that careless. *But Ashpool won't let me play,* she thought with mixed emotions.

As she was walking back to the den, she bumbed into something. "Sorry," she muttered, looking up. It was Littlepaw. "It's fine, I wasn't looking where I was going either."

Littlepaw awkwardly stepped to the side to return to the apprentice den. Rainpaw continued on her way. *Ookaay then. Wonder why he's acting that way. Maybe-*

Rainpaw shook her head to clear the thought. *No, I'm a medicine cat apprentice. He wouldn't dare.*

Chapter Six

Rainpaw shook the bunch of leaves from her claws, watching Ashpool stack the herbs in piles. *Tonight's the half-moon, the night medicine cats meet up at the Moonpool! I can't wait!*
"So, Rainpaw, are you excited for the meeting?" Ashpool said, a spark of excitement in her voice.

Rainpaw nodded her head vigorously. "I can't wait to meet the other medicine cats!"

Ashpool smiled at her apprenrice's enthusiasm. "I'm glad."

☆☆☆

The sun began to go down. Rainpaw bounced around the medicine den, not caring how ridiculous she must look.

"Rainpaw, calm down."

"I can't!" She replied. "I just can't calm down! I'm so excited for tonight and I just can't calm myself down because this is my first time meeting the other medicine cats and-"

She paused to take a breath. Before she could continue, her mentor placed her tail over the grey she-cat's mouth.

"Hey, Rainpaw!"

Hailpaw came running towards Rainpaw. She swiped a sheathed paw at her brother, and he rolled away. He jumped on top of Rainpaw, holding her down.

"I heard you're going to see the Moonpool!" Hailpaw said, letting Rainpaw get up. "Yes, we are. Now please go back to your den, we are leaving now," the medicine cat told Hailpaw.

He sighed in disappointment but obeyed. Rainpaw watched the sun get lower and lower. "It's time to go?" she asked. Ashpool nodded.

"Come on. We don't want to be late, Grasswhisker is very impatient."

Hey ya'll! Finally, another chapter out! The next few will be pretty short, but don't worry. I plan to have a chapter with lots of action...

Dusky

Chapter Seven

We're almost there! I can't wait! Rainpaw happily trotted beside her mentor to their destination. *The Moonpool!*

"Now, remeber, you might not see anything the first time. But if you do, you should tell me, alright?" Ashpool instructed. Rainpaw nodded, wondering what she might see.

Rainpaw jumped as she heard a crack behind them. "Hello there, Sootpelt." Rainpaw heard her mentor's voice.

The dark tabby smelled of RiverClan. "Sootpelt, this is my new apprenrice, Rainpaw." Sootpelt nodded at her. "Greetings. You've made a good choice, being a medicine cat."

Rainpaw was speechless. *Are all medicine cats this friendly? I hope so,* she wondered.

They kept walking. Soon, Rainpaw caught scent of another cat. It smelled like ShadowClan. "Grasswhisker! Greetings!" A brown tom enters the clearing. "Ashpool, Sootpelt." Grasswhisker says. He looks at Rainpaw.

"What is *she* doing here?" He hissed.

Rainpaw's neck fur bristled. *What's wrong with me?*

Ashpool warningly layed her tail on Rainpaw's back. She glanced up at her mentor.

"Rainpaw's my new apprentice." She said fondly. Grasswhisker snorted and continued on to the Moonpool.

Rainpaw lashed her tail in annoyance at the tom. He was *not* very friendly *at all.*

Rainpaw followed the other medicine cats and soon the RiverClan medicine cat appeared. Her name was Sunnyleaf.

☆☆☆

The medicine cats arrived at the Moonpool. The moon was at its highest point in the starry sky.

"Alright, Rainpaw, when you go to the pool you will touch you're muzzle to the water and wait. StarClan will take care of the rest."

Rainpaw felt the adreneline rush through her veins as she stalked up to the silvery-blue water. She touched her muzzle to the water, and here's back in surprise. *The water's so cold!*

With a quick glance at Ashpool, who nodded at Rainpaw, she touched her muzzle to the pool. She noticed the other medicine cats do the same.

Everything went dark.

Hey, sorry I haven't updated in a while! School, friends, homework {crushes I want to express my feelings to}. It's a nightmare! Well, what you think will happen next? Will her dream be peaceful, or suspenseful? Find out soon!

Dusky

Chapter Eight

"Welcome, young Rainpaw."

Rainpaw opened her ice-blue eyes. A starry figure stood before her. "Is- is this StarClan?"

"No, kit, it's the Twolegplace, what do you think?"

A light brown tabby rolled her eyes and stood up. "Don't mind Yellowclaw," she purred in a soft, soothing voice, "and yes, this is StarClan. You are a new medicine cat apprentice, correct?"

Rainpaw slowly nodded her head. All the cats and stars and sky...it was simply dazzling. She took a cautious step forward. "M-my mentor -Ashpool- she said that I- I might not dream anything the first time..." She let her gaze fall back on the light brown tabby. "I-is this normal?"

A fluffy, white tom with amber eyes shook his head. "Usually medicine cat apprentices don't see StarClan until their second, or even third, time."

"We knew from the start you would be different." A silver tabby inturupted him, walking forword. "Is she the new apprentice?" The she-cat's ice blue eyes gazed upon Rainpaw. *Ice-blue eyes...*

"Yes, Mistshine, that's her."

Rainpaw was confused by the meaningful looks the StarClan warriors gave the silver tabby. "Um. My mentor, Ashpool, she said I- I might not see anything my first time..."

"We believe you are different, Rainpaw. Very different indeed."

The voices began to fade, as were the starry trees and undergrowth. Rainpaw opened her eyes, and saw Ashpool looking slightly unnerved. "What's wrong?" She asked timidly.

Rainpaw's mentor just shook her head and motioned for Rainpaw to follow her back. Rainpaw waved her tail in farewell to the other medicine cats.

There's something wrong, I just know it. Rainpaw followed Ashpool on their journey back to camp.

Chapter Nine

Rainpaw and her mentor, Ashpool, we're nearly to camp. Rainpaw knew something had disturbed her mentor, but she wouldn't ask. *Maybe it's something only real medicine cats can understand,* Rainpaw reasoned.

Before they arrived, Rainpaw knew the camp would be dreary and gray. She flicked her tail to Littlepaw and Hailpaw and went to the medicine den.

"Hey, Rainpaw!"

Rainpaw turned around. Littlepaw had trotted up to her, tail held high. "How was the Moonpool?"

Rainpaw flicked her tail. *Should I tell him about it?* She glance quickly at Ashpool, who was heading towards Petalstar's den. She looked at Littlepaw again.

"It was good." She meowed simply. He nodded. "Good." Rainpaw watched Littlepaw slip into the apprentice's den. She turned to the medicine den and slipped inside.

☆☆☆

Rainpaw was sorting herbs when she heard Ashpool come into the den. "How's Petalstar?" Rainpaw asked.

"She's fine," her mentor answered. "Flowerkit is showing a great interest in healing and plants."

"Oh, good, maybe she'll be able to help me with my chores," Rainpaw joked.

Ashpool looked thoughtful for a moment. "Actually, Rainpaw, that isn't a bad idea." The gray she-cat flicked her tail and helped Rainpaw sort the leaves and flowers. Rainpaw tilted her head at a small, purple flower. *What's this again?*

"Um, Ashpool, what's this?"

Ashpool glanced at the flower. "It's lavender, it helps cure fever. You should know that, Rainpaw."

Rainpaw quickly put the flower into a pile. "Right, sorry." *How am I supposed to remember all of this?*

As they continued to sort the herbs, Rainpaw realized there were a lot of plants she didn't know. She looked at another stalk with pink, bell-shaped flowers. *Feverfew? Marigold? No, maybe...coltsfoot?*

"Um, Ashpool?"

"Yes, Rainpaw?"

Oh, StarClan, she sounds annoyed.

"Um. What's this one again?"

"That's comfrey, Rainpaw," Ashpool said, exasperated. "You need to remember these."

"Comfrey. Right. That's used for...curing infections? No, it's used for bellyache. No, wait. Um."

Ashpool rolled her eyes. She picked up five stalks and placed them in front of Rainpaw. She pointed to the first, a tall-stemmed plant with yellow flowers. "What is this, and what is it used for?"

"Um. It's...goldenrod. And it's used for...infection? No, um, healing wounds, right?"

Ashpool nodded and pointed to the second. It had large leaves, and smelled very minty.

"Oh, that's easy. It's catmint, and the best remedy for greencough."

Ashpool nodded and pointed to a plant with round yellow flowers.

"Yarrow...no, tansy, used for curing coughs."

Ashpool pointed to a pile of purple berries.

"Not poppy seeds...juniper berries? Used for bellyache, right?"

The last plant Ashpool pointed to was a small pile of red berries.

"That...I've never seen those before."

"These are deathberries. They are fatally poisonous, especially to kits and elders. Don't ever eat them or feed them to someone."

Rainpaw nodded. *There's a berry that could kill a* cat? *Wow*.

Ashpool replaced the berries and flowers in their separate little holes, and his the deathberries under some small rocks. She went to her nest and curled up, ready to sleep.

Rainpaw lay down in her nest, but didn't close her eyes. *Today was...interesting*. She thought of all the plants she didn't know. *Maybe I shouldn't be a medicine cat*, Rainpaw wondered. She shook her head and flicked her tail. Rainpaw eventually closed her eyes and fell asleep.

Hey, peeps! I used "Warriors:Enter the Clans " in this chapter , so. Yah. Thanks to everyone who's reading this, I can't wait to get another chapter out!

****Dusk****

Chapter Ten

A silver cat strolled through the forest. Her blue eyes gleamed with curiosity and excitement. As she walked on, the she-cat didn't realize she was being followed.

"What brings a medicine cat like yourself so close to ShadowClan territory ?" A deep voice rumbled from behind her.

She whipped around, and met the amber gaze of a dark gray tom, smelling of pine and thick grass. "I- wha- who are y-you?"

"Don't you think I should be asking the questions?" He meowed. "After all, you are *in my territory."*

"I was just - sorry, I lost track- I'll just- go now..." The silver cat backed away , but the ShadowClan warrior was too quick for her, and pinned her to the ground .

"Why so hasty to leave?" He rumbled. The she-cat squirmed beneath him, trying to get away. The dark tabby relaxed his grip a little bit. " What's your name?"

"Why should I tell you?" The she-cat growled. The tom smiled at her. His grin was somehow charming, threatening, and calming, all at once. " You're fierce . I like that about you."

The she-cat was startled for a moment. He didn't even know *her. "If I let you go, will you tell me your name?"*

"No way!"

The tom looked crestfallen. "Will you at least come back and see me again?" He asked, his dark amber eyes desperate.

The she-cat rolled her eyes. "Fine." The dark tabby released her, and pointed his tail to a clump of small white flowers.

"If you need those, your welcome to take some." He turned around and

disappeared into the bushes.

The she-cat stared after him with wonderment in her eyes. This ShadowClan cat was much different from the other Clan cats; he seemed to not care that she was technically an enemy cat. She shook her head. I need to get back to camp, *she thought.*

The gray cat took a few of the flowers he'd pointed out and headed back to ThunderClan.

Hey, peeps! How's life? How was the chapter? Just a little flashback for ya'll. You'll find out who's later on. Until the next chapter,

Dusk

Chapter Eleven

Rainpaw blinked the sleep out of her eyes. She raised her head and looked around. Her eye caught something white on the ground. *What's that? It looks kind of fluffy.*

Rainpaw stretched, and reached out to touch the new substance. It wasn't fluffy. It was cold and wet, but all the same, the gray apprentice couldn't help but roll around in it.

"You certainly enjoy snow."

Rainpaw stood up when she heard Ashpool's teasing mew. She flicked her tail and shook out her fur to dislodge the snow. "So that's what it's called." She said.

Ashpool nodded. "Snow is a sign that leafbare has started. Leafbare brings cold and illness death."

When Ashpool saw the look startled Rainpaw was giving her, she just shook her head. " Oh, don't listen to me. All the illnesses are just getting to my head."

Ashpool went back inside the den. *Well, that was kind of weird.* Rainpaw shrugged and went to get something from the fresh-kill pile. Out if the corner of her eye, she noticed the dawn patrol entering the camp.

She saw Hailpaw, with his mentor, Stormstripe, coming into camp. *He's lucky. He gets to hunt and fight.* Rainpaw glanced back at the medicine cat den. *But I can heal others; isn't that what I want to do?* Littlepaw, Sandpaw, Cloudypelt, and Jaggedclaw padded to the center of camp. Littlepaw turned to look at Rainpaw, but turned away, embarrassed when their gazes met. *Maybe it's not what I want.*

Rainpaw saw another black tom following the patrol. *Oh, Nightspirit.* The tom glared at her with his dark blue eyes. Rainpaw was startled and her eyes went wide. Stepped backwards, and ran into someone

who was coming up behind her. She turned around, and saw that it was Littlepaw.

"Oh, uh, hi," he stuttered. The brown tom shifted his gaze away from Rainpaw's. "I- I've got to go. Um, hunting patrol." Littlepaw turned to leave.

Rainpaw stopped him. "Actually, could I go with you?" Littlepaw looked surprised. "It can't hurt for a medicine cat to know how to hunt, right? And besides, Ashpool is busy." Littlepaw glanced at the medicine den, then back at Rainpaw, but only for a second. "Well, I'll go ask."

Littlepaw went off to find Stormstripe. Rainpaw entered the medicine den, looking for Ashpool. She wasn't there. *Hm. She isn't here. Oh well. Maybe she went herb-gatgering, or...something.*

Rainpaw joined the hunting patrol in the middle of camp, and they set off.

Hiya! We got another chappie in, yay! So, what do you think's gonna happen? Is Ashpool hurt or worse, or just herb-gathering? ThunderClan wouldn't do very well with Rainpaw as their only med cat, no offense to her. You'll just have to wait and see!

Chapter Twelve

Rainpaw padded into camp with the patrol. She was exhausted. She laid down her scrawny shrew on the fresh-kill pile.

"Rainpaw! Look out!"

Rainpaw had just barely turned around when a gray shape barreled into her. She tried to shove the shape away, but it wouldn't budge. The cat pinned her down to the ground.

"Get off, Hailpaw!"

"Guess what!"

"What?"

"I had my first assessment today!"

Rainpaw finally pushed Hailpaw away. "Good for you." Hailpaw frowned at her. He glanced at Windpaw, who had seen their tussle and was purring in amusement. Hailpaw stuck his tongue out at her and left to go talk to Windpaw.

Rainpaw flicked her tail and padded to the medicine den. When she went inside, she Ashpool sorting herbs.
But there was something strange about her...like she was waiting for something to happen, but didn't want it to. Rainpaw shook her head and left again.

When Rainpaw went outside, she noticed Stormkit and Petalkit were playing outiside. Well, Nightkit was playing. Flowerkit was inspecting leaves and flowers. *Hm, I don't think I've ever heard of a kit* that *interested in plants.*

Rainpaw trotted over. She watched Flowerkit for a bit longer. Flowerkit turned around, and squeaked when she saw Rainpaw.

"H-hello."

"Hi. I'm Rainpaw, the medicine cat apprentice."

Flowerkit's bright green eyes lit up. "Really? Is it fun? What have you learned? Can you tell me? Isn't it great? Have you learned how to cure and infection? Have you learned what nettle does? Have you had a vision from StarClan?"

Rainpaw was startled by all of the young kit's questions. *She gets very excited about plants and medicine cat stuff. Maybe she would make a better one than me?*

When Rainpaw didn't answer, Flowerkit looked crestfallen. "Oh, I'm so sorry, I- I didn't mean to ask so many questions, I just..." Flowerkit glanced up at Rainpaw. She looked at the ground again.

Rainpaw just purred in amusement and flicked Flowerkit with her tail. "It's okay. I guess I really want to be a medicine cat."

Flowerkit nodded eagerly. "Yeah, Stormkit *always* teases me because I like to look for flowers and leaves." She glanced at her brother. Flowerkit sighed. "I feel so out of place. Especially since I can only play with Stormkit, and he doesn't like my games."

Like a bolt of lightning, Rainpaw realized that Flowerkit would make a perfect medicine cat. *She's probably too shy to say anything, though.*

"Why don't you ask Ashpool to teach you some stuff?"

Flowerkit was stunned. "But you're already a medicine cat apprentice, and we don't need *three* medicine cats!" The silver tabby's ears twitched.

"Well, think about it, because I think you'd make a great medicine cat."

And maybe I'd be a better warrior...

Hey, peoples! Again, sorry it's been so long! I have a lot to do over summer break. Note- summer *BREAK*. Anyway. So, yeah. Rainpaw may or may not become a warrior apprentice. ;)

~Dusk~

A/N

Hey guys! I know you are all waiting for the next chapter to be published, I am too, but I'm very busy. Really sorry, but WattPad isn't exactly my top priority. Well, not right now. So thanks for understanding!

~Dusk~

Also, quick shoutout for PaigeNight
She's been with Rainpaw since the very beginning, and is always one of the first to read and vote my chapters! Thanks again, Sasha!

A/N

***OMG YOU GUYS!!!!!!!!* 700+ READS!? Thank you all SO MUCH!!! And 180 comments and 90 votes!? I mean, I only *have,* like, twelve chapters, that's pretty impressive!**

So, anyway, I have a bit of writer's block and I need inspiration for the next chapter . I've been thinking of another battle, cuz the whole story kind of revolves around the dispute between ShadowClan and ThunderClan, if you hadn't noticed. So, please give me ideas, even if you don't think they're good ones, they *will* help me out!

Keep derpin'!

~Dusk~

Chapter Thirteen

Rainpaw woke up to another cold Leafbare morning. She stood up, shook out her fur, stretched, and promptly knocked a few flowers and leaves out if place. The gray tabby apprentice blinked at the fallen herbs, and rolled her eyes, waiting for the annoying remark from Ashpool about being careful.

It didn't come.

Rainpaw looked around, feeling slightly panicked. Then she remembered. *She's at the Moonpool.* The silver she-cat hadn't told Rainpaw why she absolutely *had* to contact StarClan as soon as possible, but she figured it was about all the battles with ShadowClan.

Rainpaw stretched again, gave her fur a quick wash, and stepped outside. Snow covered the ground, and it was still coming down. Rainpaw wondered how Ashpool could *possibly* survive this weather.

Rainpaw went back inside to put back the flowers. As she did, she heard Hailpaw and Stormstripe leave camp, probably to go hunting. Rainpaw finished putting back the herbs and went back outside. *It's so cold, I might want to the check on Petalstar's kits.*

Rainpaw had nearly taken a step when she nearly bumped into another cat, with fur as black as night. *Nightspirit.* Nightspirit glared at her, then continued on his way out of camp. *What is up with him?* Rainpaw wondered irritably. She continued on her way to check up on Petalstar and her kits.

It's like he hates *me. But why would he?,* Rainpaw thought. *It's not like I ruined his true love or something.*

...

Right?

A/N

Heeeyyy, readers! I'm really sorry, I haven't updated in forever! I've been preoccupied with a lot of other things, but of course you hear that all the time from me. Surprisingly enough, I actually have a life. With homework. And school. And a potential-future-boyfriend. (Wtf) Anyway, I'm working on the next chapter, hopefully it'll be done soon!

Chapter Fourteen

As Rainpaw walked over to Petalstar's and the kits' den, she heard someone coughing. And then- "Tawnyheart, you have to go see Ashpool! It's only going to get worse!" *Mother?* Thought Rainpaw. She headed to the warriors' den and peered inside. "Mother? Are you alright?" Rainpaw's gasped when Tawnyheart turned to look at her. Her mother's once-beautiful tortoiseshell fur was dirty and matted, her eyes were blood-shot, and she looked as if she hadn't slept in a week. *Which she probably hasn't,* Rainpaw said to herself. Tawnyheart gave into another bout of coughing. Rainpaw helped Tawnyheart sit down. "I- I'll go get you some- um..some moss. Yeah."

Rainpaw left the den and half-leapt, half-ran to the medicine den. Hailpaw and Sandpaw, who had just arrived from dawn patrol, watched in surprise. Just as she entered the den, Rainpaw saw a flash of silver and heard someone call her name. "Rainpaw?" Rainpaw gave a sigh of relief. "Ashpool! It's Tawnyheart- she- she has-" Rainpaw took a gulp of air. "She's really sick!" Ashpool's eyes widened. The silver tabby whisked away. Rainpaw followed timidly, not wanting to be in the way, but she wanted to know what was going to happen to her mother.

Rainpaw sat outside the den, trying to hear what was going on. "Tawnyheart, please! She can't lose you!" This comment startled Rainpaw. *Is it really that bad?* She thought. *Is Mother going to die?* Rainpaw didn't want to think about that anymore. She listened to their conversation. They were discussing what treatment Tawnyheart would need; she had apparently finally agreed that she needed a medicine cat. Rainpaw started to walk away, wanting to talk to Windpaw and Hailpaw, but then...

"Mistshine would've kept working!"

"And that's exactly what killed her!"

This surprised Rainpaw. She'd never heard Ashpool so angry before.

Or so..terrified. Then a thought struck her. *Who is Mistshine?* Rainpaw shrugged it off and went off to find Windpaw. From the corner of her eye, though, she saw Ashpool storming to the medicine den, her teeth gritted and her eyes wet with tears. The silver tabby disappeared into the den. Rainpaw stopped for a moment. Then, deciding to ask about that later, she called to Windpaw, heading towards the fresh-kill pile.

☆☆☆

Later that night, as Rainpaw was trying to sleep, she heard rustling and then she saw a cat-like shape leave the den. It stopped, then sat down just outside the entrance. Rainpaw realized it was Ashpool. Then she began to speak.

"Oh, Mistshine, I can't do this. She must have overheard us. She's going to tell her brother, then Tawnyheart might be banished."

Mother? thought Rainpaw, *banished?*

"I won't be able to keep her a medicine cat for long, she's just like you. Fierce, independent, brave..."

Silence. Rainpaw edged out of her nest, she had been captivated in Ashpool's speech to the unknown cat.

"Oh, why wouldn't you just let me help you while I could!?"

Rainpaw flinched. Ashpool shouted her last words to Silverpelt, and then vanished into the forest. Rainpaw panicked, looking around wildly. *Anything could be out there!* She thought. *Badgers, foxes, enemies...*

Rainpaw caught sight of a silver tuft of fur. She caught a whiff of the familiar scent of herbs and moss. She followed the pawsteps implanted in the soil. Rainpaw ran from the camp, into a forest she'd barely set foot in. She heard a leaf crunch, she crouched, afraid. Another leaf, another crouch. The fear gaining as her icy eyes filled with moonlight. Rainpaw knew what she would find. Ashpool's mangled body, savaged by a particularly hungry fox.

Rainpaw stopped and listened. She could hear muttering, it sounded

like apologies. *Ashpool?* She stalked up to the silver tabby, and caught some of her words. "I can't do this anymore, Mistshine! You have to let me tell her!"

Rainpaw tilted her head to the side. *Tell who what?* She thought. Her mentor started whispering so quietly Rainpaw couldn't hear a single word. She edged closer to Ashpool, hoping she wouldn't be caught.

She didn't realize there was a ledge. A sort if a small cliff, and she was on the long side. Rainpaw fell through the thin layer of leaves with a shriek. She landed with a dull thud. Darkness started closing in. But before it could take her completely, she saw a silouette of two silver cats looking down at her, one with an expression of terror, and the other... almost transparent.

A/N
Thank you guys SO MUCH!!! I have 800+ reads, and I'm still at the beginning of the story! Thank you to all my readers , you are the people who will make Rainpaw's story unfold. Special thanks to AllyInk , she has helped me with this book pretty much since I first thought of it, and please go check out her Warriors fanfiction: When You Saved Me ! Thanks again! Byyyeeeee!

~Dusk~

Chapter Fifteen

[image]

A/N-
Here's a little song for you, it's my favorite song from Undertale. The name is Memory, it'll make sense as you read. Thanks!

"Ashpaw! Ashpaw, I did it!"

A small silver tabby looked up and squeaked as her sister barreled into her. "Oh, c- congratulations, Mistpaw." Ashpaw, the silver tabby, gathered up the leaves the had fallen and put them in crevices in the small cave. The blue-gray she-cat, Mistpaw, tilted her head. "What's wrong?" She asked. Ashpaw just shook her head and resumed cleaning the cave. The blue-gray she-cat poked the tabby with her tail. Come on, I know how you get when something's bothering you." Ashpaw sighed.

"A-alright. As long as Sunrose doesn't hear." She took a deep breath. "You- you've been..hanging out with Hawkpaw a lot lately, and I don't really like him. He's really loud. And distracting. And talkative. And you barely ever visit me anymore."

Mistpaw stared at Ashpaw for a moment. "I'm sorry, it's a stupid reason-" Mistpaw swiped at Ashpaw's ear, interrupting her.

"Ashpaw, I don't care what the reason is! If you're lonely, you know I'll be here for you!" They gray tabby twined her tail with her sister's and pressed against her side. Mistpaw was just the slightest bit bigger and taller, bit Ashpaw didn't mind.

"Thanks, sis. Now, could you help me fix these herbs, O Great Soon-Warrior?" Ashpaw said in a teasing voice.

"But of course, dear sister." Mistpaw answered in an exaggerated proper tone of voice. Both she-cats tried to keep in their laughter, but utterly failed.

"ASHPAW!"

"Uh-oh, Sunrose. You'd better go, Mistpaw."

Mistpaw waved her tail in goodbye, and proceeded to stalk off towards Nightpaw. Ashpaw watched her leap onto the black tom, quietly laughing at his expression of terror. They were clearly good friends. *The have been since we were kits.* But Ashpaw knew something most others didn't. Nightpaw, despite how much he says he despises the idea of living the rest of your life emotionally connected with another cat, he was very fond of a certain she-cat. That she-cat was, in fact, Mistpaw. Ashpaw knew they had no chance together. But she couldn't help but wonder, *what if they did end up falling in love?* Nightpaw was often scorned because of the stereotype that cats with darker pelts would become evil or bad in some way, especially since he was born to a family with mostly white or light gray pelts. But Nightpaw really was a great cat, with awful insecurities. It probably didn't help that he was the new leader's only son. Ashpaw continued working in full silence, her mind wirring with ideas of the future ahead of them.

A large, light ginger she-cats appeared from a smaller cave, a pleased look on her normally strict face. "Wonderful, Ashpaw, I do believe you'll make a memorable medicine cat once I'm gone."

"Oh, Sunrose, don't say that! You won't be joining StarClan for a while, and besides, I've got so much to learn, and I'm *constantly* forgetting things, and..."

The silver she-cat was cut off by Sunrose's new look of annoyance. "You speak far too much, Ashpaw, and you don't believe in yourself enough."

Sunrose stalked around Ashpaw to peer outside. "The worst thing a medicine cat can do is to put herself down for no reason. Remember that. You can't save everyone."

Ashpaw suddenly had a thought. *Is this a warning? Am I going to have to let someone die? When?* Her mind was bursting with questions, but Ashpaw refrained from asking. Even so, Sunrose's mouth twitched into a smile. She knew her apprentice too well to

not know if she has questions.

"Oh, Ashpaw, you've got to learn to be less...sensitive. Less knowing. You're barely ten moons old, lighten up!" Sunrose laughed. Ashpaw quietly laughed with her.

She's right . Especially around Mistpaw, she's so close to becoming a warrior.

Ashpaw finished up placing each leaf in its correct area. As she did so, Sunrose spoke again. "Are you hungry, Ashpaw? I'm going to the fresh-kill pile." Ashpaw shook her head. "No, I was actually thinking of going on a walk." Sunrose peered at the silver tabby apprentice. "Alright, if your sure."

Ashpaw watches Sunrose pad to the fresh-kill pile. She follows for a few steps, then turns toward the camp exit. She pads on to the forest, the sun above in the bright blue sky.

☆☆☆

Snap. Ashpaw jumps at this sudden sound. *It's nothing but a stick. Calm down.* Ashpaw kept walking on, unsure of where she was headed, but she could smell ShadowClan nearby. The two Clans had been surprisingly peaceful the past moons, considering their many fueds. The silver she-cat kept on. Another leaf crackled. And another snap. *Alright, someone's out here.* The medicine cat apprentice peered around, searching for anything unusual. While she was concentrating on her surroundings, she heard another *snap* and saw a flash of dark fur. *Ah-ha!*

Ashpaw crept toward the shape. It hadn't seen her, but it most likely had smelled her. She was nearly close enough to touch it...

There was another loud crunch. Ashpaw whipped around, then looked back. The figure was gone. *Mouse-dung!*

Suddenly, Ashpaw realized how close to the ShadowClan border she was. Only a few pawsteps more, and she would have been crowfood. She backed away, tensing up. *What is someone actually saw me?* Then, Ashpaw thought. She sighed.

Sunrose is right. I really am too sensitive and tense. I should try to relax. Have a bit of fun.

Maybe I'll make a friend that isn't *my sister.*

Yeah, right. Who'd want to be friends with a bird-brained cat like me?

The silver tabby sat down, thinking. Remembering. *Sunrose said not to put myself down. I should compliment myself.* She nodded to herself, confirming the idea.

Alright. Here goes.

I'm the best medicine cat apprentice Sunrose has ever had.

Ashpaw was silent. There was a pause. *Mouse-dung, I'm her* only *apprentice!*

Ashpaw sighed again, head hanging. Suddenly, she sees a flash of the same dark fur. Ashpaw thinks. *Sunrose is always telling me to be curious,* Ashpaw thought.

And after all, what's the worst that could happen?

A/N

Hey everyone! I just reached 15 chapters, thank you all for reading this story! You guys are great!

Chapter Sixteen

"Are you *sure* she's not dead?"

"Yes, Cinnamon, I'm sure she isn't dead."

"But she isn't breathing."

"She's asleep."

"Oh. Are you sure?"

Icy eyes opened to the bright sun shining down on an extremely confused face. Rainpaw tried to sit up, only to find her while body felt as if it was splintering apart.

"Great StarClan, what happened?"

A dark ginger she-cat with sparkling yellow eyes stares down at Rainpaw. "Oh, you're alive now! I'm Cinnamon, what's you're name?" She lightly prodded Rainpaw's shoulder with her front paw. Rainpaw peered at the kittypet.

"My name is Rainpaw."

"Oh, that's a nice name." Rainpaw whipped her head around, causing her neck to give a loud crack. She winced in pain.

"You probably shouldn't move for a while, you fell a long way."

"Oh, thanks, I didn't realize," Rainpaw replied, touching her paw to her neck. Cinnamon just sat there and smiled. "You know.." Rainpaw began, "I should get back to my-"

"Oh, of course, your housefolk! Where do they live? I'm sure mine would be happy to take you back!" Rainpaw shook her head. "No, that's not what I-"

"Oh, did they leave? That's so mean, *my* housefolk would *never* do

that to me! Maybe mine could take you in!"

"No, I don't live here-"

"Oh, are you lost? Do you live in another neighborhood? Wow, you must really brave to come all the way here! You know, there are these groups of huge cats! I hear they eat each other!"

Huge cats that eat each other? Oh, she means us!

"Yes, I know, I'm one of them!"

Cinnamon stared at Rainpaw for a full minute. Just then the other cat intervened, an amused look on her face. The new cat was a pretty Siamese with the bluest eyes in the history of blue eyes. *At least, it seems like it.*

"Very sorry for the inconvenience, dear. I hope you're feeling well."

The tabby apprentice slowly nodded her head, eyes narrowing in a bit of confusion. Why were these kittypets helping her?

"I am Sapphire. I live here with my housefolk and sister, Ruby."

Rainpaw tipped her head to the side. "I'm Rainpaw."

"Ah, an apprentice. I do believe you should get back to your Clan soon. You've been resting here for quite a while."

Rainpaw shakily got to her paws. "Right. Well. Um. Do you know...exactly...where....."

The Siamese chuckled and pointed her tail to a clump of trees. "Follow the trail, it'll lead you to the edge of the territory." She turned to the clump of trees, for a moment, then turned away again. "Be careful out there."

Rainpaw bowed her head slightly, a feeling of nervousness taking over her usually fearless mind. "Thank you." As she padded towards the clump of trees, Cinnamon called out.

"Bye, Rainpaw! See you later!"

The medicine cat apprentice looked back to see the two kittypets wandering away. Well, Cinnamon was wandering. Sapphire had disappeared.

Rainpaw walked on. *The forest is so beautiful at sunset.* Fallen leaves crinkled beneath the she-cat's paws. As the sun sank into the sky, a fiery red glow shone over the treetops.

Suddenly, a creature dashed out of a nearby bush. Rainpaw jumped back a yelp of surprise, only to find it was a rabbit. *A* rabbit? *This far away from the moor?* It was certainly very odd, and it didn't help that the warm orange glow was becoming an eerie, dark mist.

Wait. Rainpaw stopped in her tracks. *How did Sapphire know I'm am apprentice?*

Another rustle in the bushes. Then the creature attacked her.

A/N:
So, heya, peeps! I'm not going to make excuses for the amount of time it's been since my last update. I'm sorry, I know it's been a while. My life is stressful, I have lots of schoolwork. Like, more than most people. And that's been proven. Anyway, I'm hoping not to have updates be more than two weeks apart, but I'm not even going to bother with a schedule. I like my updates to be surprises. Thank you guys for reading, and please comment! Don't be a ghost reader! (Even I am one, cough cough.) Let me know about any mistakes, and if you think I should change anything. Thank you all!

~Dusk~

Chapter Seventeen

Rainpaw struggled against the cat, swiping at them with all her might. Her many attempts to hit her attacker, though, all failed, as they could merely move their head to dodge the blows.

"Stop that."

A paw firmly held down Rainpaw's shoulder as she tried to roll away. *Wait. I recognize that voice!*

"Lightningpaw! What are you doing?!"

"A better question would be, 'what are you doing?' This is ShadowClan territory!"

Lightningpaw's green eyes glowed with concern for the tabby she-cat. All of a sudden, Rainpaw felt exceedingly awkward. "Uh..could you, um.."

"Oh! Right, sorry." Lightningpaw leaped off the tabby apprentice, landing on three paws. He kept his left forepaw slightly above the ground, as though it were injured. Rainpaw tilted her head at it, but didn't press. "So, what *are* you doing here?" Lightningpaw inquired. The gray tom sat down, facing Rainpaw. The tabby she-cat sat down as well, opening her mouth to explain.

"I'm not entirely sure what happened, but Ashpool was acting really weird." Lightningpaw tilted his head to the side, appearing confused. "Oh, right, you don't know her. Ashpool's the medicine cat. For ThunderClan."

"Anyway, so I followed her into the forest, and then I fell." Lightningpaw blinked at Rainpaw. "You just...fell." He repeated. Rainpaw nodded. Lightningpaw gave her a sideways grin, and replied, "That was probably the most boring story I've ever heard." Then his gray-striped tail whisked away into the forest.

"H-hey! Come back!" Rainpaw's eyes were wide as she chased after the ShadowClan apprentice. "Lightningpaw!" She called out, exasperated. "You still haven't told me what you were doing here!" Rainpaw peered around the forest again. It was familiar, but it an odd way. She leaned down to sniff at some leaves; they clearly had Lightningpaw's scent. She followed a trail of broken twigs until she finally spotted the the tabby tom, waiting for her in a small clearing.

Rainpaw crouched down, letting her instincts take over. She placed one paw on the ground, then the next...her tail straightened, completing still...another paw...then she leaped! Lightningpaw's turned around a second too late; Rainpaw had crashed into him, knocking them both to the ground. "Wha-?" Lightningpaw yelped. Rainpaw lost her balance, flipping over Lightningpaw onto her back.

Rainpaw heard a snicker. She looked up at Lightningpaw, who was beginning to laugh. Rainpaw chuckled, and began laughing as well. They both fell on the ground, failing to support themselves.

"That. Was. *Amazing!* Rainpaw, I had no idea yo-"

"Rainpaw?"

Lightningpaw stopped short. "What was that?" He whispered. Rainpaw shrugged, then silently crept forward. "I think it's Ashpool," she answered. She turned around, spotting Lightningpaw's crestfallen expression. "Hey, we'll see each other again. Right?" Lightningpaw nodded, "Yeah, right."

Rainpaw flicked his ear with her tail and briefly held his gaze. She turned back to the bushes, preparing to leap out, ready to return to ThunderClan. As soon as she left the little clearing, Ashpool yowled her name, and proceeded to tackle Rainpaw.

"Where were you!? You could've been killed, or captured, or-"

"Ashpool, I'm fine!" Rainpaw pushed her mentor off of her. "I- I fell, and-"

Ashpool shook her head. "Don't even tell me. Let's get out of here." Ashpool led the way back to camp. Rainpaw smelled some of her other Clanmates, including Echopool. She turned back to where Lightningpaw was hiding, and whispered goodbye. She didn't receive an answer until she was nearly too far away to hear.

"See you tomorrow."

☆☆☆

Back at camp, Rainpaw was taken straight to Petalstar, who would decide her punishment. Ashpool suggested taking care of the elders. *Well,* that's *hardly fair,* Rainpaw thought. Petalstar decided against it. Instead, she took Rainpaw into her den for a lecture. A very, very long lecture.

"You should have come straight back to camp, or better yet, told someone you were leaving in the first place. Ashpool was worried sick! Not to mention your parents. And speaking of them, Tawnyheart has gotten better, but no thanks to you! I never would have thought that a *ThunderClan apprentice* would *ever* do something like that..."

Rainpaw's mind trailed off into spirals of thought. She barely listened to her leader. Instead, her mind was centered on her meeting with Lightningpaw. *'I'll see you tomorrow...' what does that mean?*

"Of course, if you were actually listening to me, you would realize I'm not going to punish you as severely as I was going to."

Rainpaw's ears perked up. "What?"

"Punishing you won't stop you from seeing him again."

"Him?" *How could she know?*

"Don't try to hide it. I'm the only that knows. Just...make sure you know what you're doing. And it's okay to talk to others. We're a Clan. We look out for each other, it's what keeps us together," Petalstar smiled down at the medicine cat apprentice, "Now you'd better go see what Ashpool has in store for you. Please remember

my words."

The leader nodded Rainpaw away to the medicine den. The she-cat's heart quickened as she saw her mentor's face emerge from the den.

She was clearly in for an unpleasant day.

A/N: Hello, readers! I am so sorry I haven't updated! I'm not even going to try to deny that's it's been too long. The school year is nearly over, and then I'll have plenty of free time to write. I promise we're getting closer to the end! I'll try to make these chapters longer, and I may revise earlier chapters, so don't panic if one of the chapters randomly disappears, it'll be under (Probably severe) editing. Thank you! Don't forget to vote, and maybe leave a comment!

~Dusky~

Chapter Eighteen

"*What* you thought you were doing, following me in the middle of the night," Ashpool grumbled, "you could've been *killed*...not even a *message*!"

"You know," Rainpaw said, yawning in the dim sunlight, "Petalstar *just* gave me a lecture, so it's all taken care of."

Ashpool glared at her apprentice. She had just finished instructing Flowerkit, who wanted to help the medicine cats that day. *Just like me,* Rainpaw realized, *before I was even four moons old.*

Ashpool decided that Rainpaw would be confined to camp for a half-moon and made to do the other aprentice's chores for three days. Flowerkit, despite being barely a few moons old, backed up Ashpool in the argument that had taken place.

Meanwhile, Flowerkit was sorting herbs along the wall. She clearly knew them well, even better than Rainpaw.

"Hey, Ashpool."

"Yes?"

"I've been thinking. What if...I shouldn't be a medicine cat?"

Ashpool seemed unsurprised by this comment. "Don't worry, it's completely normal. You still have a lot to learn, it's only been a few moons since you were apprenticed."

Yeah. That's right, Rainpaw thought. *But then, what if I'm right?*

☆☆☆

Rainpaw's true destiny became clear at the next half-moon.

"Ashpool, Rainpaw," said the WindClan medicine cat, Sunnyleaf, "this is my new apprentice, Leopardpaw."

"Welcome!" said Ashpool. Leopardpaw seemed jumpy and anxious. Maybe she could make a good friend.

"Hi," said the tabby apprentice, "I'm Rainpaw."

"Leopardpaw," said the other apprentice. "I hope I've learned enough, I only know the *names* of all the herbs, I don't even know what *chamomile* does yet!"

Rainpaw was stunned. *She knows the name of all the herbs?*

Sunnyleaf smiled down at her apprentice. "I'm sure you know plenty."

Grasswhisker, once again, hissed at Rainpaw upon sight. There was something about he just did not like.

They continued their travel to StarClan's pool. *What if I'm meant to be a warrior?* Rainpaw was lost in thought when the finally arrived.

At the Moonpool, all the medicine cats kneeled down at the pool, prepared to meet StarClan.

Rainpaw closed her eyes, and put her muzzle to the pool, as instructed.

Everything went dark.

And, just like last time, and the time before, nothing happened. Rainpaw didn't wake up to the starry fields of StarClan. She was in a forest. *ShadowClan,* she realized. She was full-grown, a full medicine cat. Or was she?

Rainpaw looked into a puddle and saw not her face with trails of leaves, but battle-scarred. Fierce. Angry. And loving all the same. The kind of expression only a mother protecting her kits could have.

Rainpaw gasped. Was that her destiny? Was she going to become a warrior, and possibly even have kits? *Maybe with Lightningpaw,* she thought.

No, that would be ridiculous. We're not even good friends.

"Rainpaw."

The tabby she-cat jumped. She whipped around with a hiss, that soon became an expression of wonder. Before her was a beautiful gray-and-white she-cat with stars in her fur, and amazing ice-blue eyes.

"Do not think you must follow what StarClan had showed you. Your life is your decision. Always remember this."

The she-cat turned away. "Wait!" Rainpaw called, "Please wait! What's your name?"

But the tabby with stars in her fur had gone. Rainpaw was left with a longing feeling, as if she was meeting someone for the first time in forever.

Ridiculous, she thought, *I'm just overly curious.*

Rainpaw allowed herself to open her eyes, back to her world, a world without cats with stars in their fur. The other cats were still asleep.

How I wish you were here, Lightningpaw.

"Psst. Rainpaw."

Rainpaw yelped in fright and whipped around, back arched and rail fluffed out. "Lightningpaw!? What in StarClan?" She whisper-yelled.

"So this is the Moonpool?" Lightningpaw wondered.

"Yeah," Rainpaw replied, "Where *medicine cats* meet." She glared at the gray apprentice. "How did you even find me?"

"Well, you didn't exactly mask your scent."

Right. "Why are you here?" Rainpaw inquired.

"What's with all the questions?" Lightningpaw shot back.

"I asked first."

Lightningpaw scraped at the rocky ground. He took a breath, then closed his mouth and looked away.

"Come on!" Rainpaw shoved Lightningpaw's shoulder.

"Fine," he began, "I...I just water to talk to you again."

"And you thought this was a good place to do it?"

"Well," he sputtered, "It was urgent."

"Mm-hm."

"I had a dream."

Rainpaw rolled her eyes. "Oh, wow, how *amazing* and *wonderful*, I'm so glad you risked yourself to come tell me about a *dream."*

"That was sarcastic."

"No. Way. Sarcastic? Me? *Never.*"

Lightningpaw shoved Rainpaw back. "Listen!"

Rainpaw sighed. She hid a smile as she rolled her eyes, glad to have some distraction from her own dream.

"Okay. So I was hunting the forest, right? And then I heard this voice, and I followed it. It sounded like my mentor, Darkheart, but...different. Like, all raspy and sick. He was saying something, but I couldn't make it out. And then I saw you, but you were older, and, like, different, and then you fell, and then I woke up."

Rainpaw blinked at Lightningpaw, utterly awe-struck. Lightningpaw cocked his head at her.

"So..?"

"That is *so weird!"* Rainpaw exclaimed, "I had a dream like that, too! Except-"

But Lightningpaw had slammed his tail against her mouth.

"I think they're waking up," he whispered.

Rainpaw, panicked, whipped her head toward the medicine cats. Sunnyleaf was stirring, along with her own mentor, Ashpool.

"Go!" Rainpaw whispered, pushing Lightningpaw away, "I'll meet you at the border in a couple days. Hurry!"

She watched with a sigh as Lightningpaw's tail whisked out of sight. There was a light scrape as Rainpaw turned around to watch the medicine cats. Leopardpaw was still asleep, with Sunnyleaf groggily shaking her.

"Rainpaw, we have to hurry back to camp," Ashpool stated.

"Why?"

The silver she-cat lowered her head. "I fear your mother may be in danger."

"Oh." *Right, her illness,* Rainpaw thought.

"Alright, then, let's get on with it," Grasswhisker grumbled. He began leading the way back to each cat's camp.

They all began padding sway from the sparkling pool, watching Leopardpaw share an exciting visit from StarClan with Sunnyleaf.

As they were walking, Rainpaw lagged further and further behind. She was lost in thought about Lightningpaw and her promise to meet him. *It's not like it's against the Code to have friends...right?*

"Rainpaw."

The tabby apprentice yelped with fright and came face-to-face with none other than Grasswhisker.

"I saw you with that tom. If I had any sense I would report you to Ashpool, but it seems it has temporarily abandoned me. Though I will tell you this- no *real* medicine cat would have anything to do

with a a cat from a different Clan. Think about this." And Grasswhisker trotted up to the front of the group.

Real medicine cat? So I'm right, then. I shouldn't be a medicine cat, Rainpaw thought.

After all, Flowerkit is obviously meant to be one. But I'm meant to be a warrior.

I think.

I hope.

***A/N:* Thank you to all my readers!! I've reached 1k views, and all thanks to you! I know that it's been, like, half a year, and I'm soo sorry! I'm hoping to be writing more, longer chapters now. Also, if you notice any missing chapters, don't panic. It'll be under editing and will be re-published soon. Thank you again !**

~Dusk~

Chapter Nineteen

As soon as Rainpaw returned to camp, she was immediately tackled by her brother.

"Hailpaw, get off!"

The gray tom wouldn't budge.

"It's been so long since we spent time together, though! And you need to spend some time with Mother and Father! Come eat with us!"

Rainpaw beamed with delight. She glanced at Ashpool, who gave an approving nod. Rainpaw mewed in excitement, happy to spend time with family.

Tawnyheart did not look like she was in any danger. *Ashpool just worries too much,* Rainpaw thought. She smiled at her mother and sat down next to her, with her father, Branchfur, on Tawnyheart's other side.

The tortoiseshell she-cat gave her daughter a warm smile. "We are so proud of of you, Rainpaw. You've come so far since you began training."

"Oh, speaking of training," Rainpaw began, "how's Windpaw doing?"

Branchfur grinned at Rainpaw's question. "She's doing wonderfully. I couldn't have asked for a more obedient apprentice." He then chuckled, and said, "Now, Sandpaw, on the other paw, is giving Jaggedclaw a *real* workout."

Hailpaw tried to suppress a grin. "Funny story 'bout that, actually," he mentioned, "you know how we've been training together and all that, me and Windpaw? Well, one day, we were practicing hunting

techniques. Sandpaw was goofing off as usual, and she accidentally scared off a bird, but Windpaw didn't know. So when she started to sneak up on the nest, a whole bunch of feathers got in her nose! She was so mad at Sandpaw for the rest of the day," Hailpaw finished with a laugh.

Rainpaw joined in the laughter. She had never seen Windpaw make any sort of mistake. *I've been missing so much, holed up in the medicine den all day. Maybe I should a take a day off from training or something.*

Tawnyheart, seeming to read her daughter's mind, asked if she would like to go hunting with a patrol sometime. "You could use the fresh air," she meowed. Rainpaw nodded enthusiastically.

As her family continued sharing tongues and chatting, Rainpaw gazed into the medicine den, where Flowerkit and Nightkit were playing moss-ball. Flowerkit kept missing the ball, distracted by Ashpool and one of her patients. *She's clearly supposed to be a medicine cat,* Rainstep thought, *I'll tell Ashpool tomorrow that I want to start warrior training instead.* Her gaze met Ashpool's, and she lowered her head a bit, hoping she would get the message. The silver tabby nodded and gave her a sad smile, understanding that Rainpaw has a different destiny to follow.

Once her meal was done, Hailpaw playfully swiped at her, Windpaw and Sandpaw waiting expectantly, and she gladly joined the brawl.

***

That night, after a play-fight with all the apprentices and even some of the younger warriors, Rainpaw rested in her nest, content. As she let sleep take over, her final thoughts resounded in her head: *I may make mistakes, like having a crush on a cat from another Clan, and have unanswered questions from mysterious visitors in my dreams, but somehow, I know that everything will turn out all right.*

A/N: This is the final chapter of Rainstep's Choice on this platform. I hope you all have enjoyed this story, and please the next A/N chapter for more info.

Thank you all so much, and keep derpin!

~Dusky~

A/N

Hi there, readers, it's Dusky. First, I'd like to apologize for totally disappearing for, like, three years or something. I don't know if anyone actually reads this book anymore, but if you do, I'm afraid I have some bad-ish news.

As you can probably tell, I'm pretty much done with WattPad. It was great while it lasted, I made friends here that I will remember forever, but there's nothing for me here anymore. I guess I've moved on from the Warriors roleplays and fanfictions and the books of randomness and the sleepless nights spent writing stories with friends that I never even met in real life. Those were some good times.

Now, for Rainstep's Choice, I really do want to finish this. The story has come a long way from when I first created Rainpaw and Lightningpaw (they were the first characters created, along with Ashpool). If anyone is absolutely dying to know what happens, DM me and I can explain my plot notes. However, here's the good part:

Even though I won't be updating here any longer, I am going to try to write this elsewhere, and let you guys know where so you can read it. Though it may turn out completely different in the beginning. I'm going to publish the last unfinished chapter, and I know it won't wrap up the story at all and it'll feel totally rushed, but I'll try to write a chapter ending that kind of wraps it up so far. Like if the book were in parts and it was the end of part 1 or something.

For the last time, I wanted to thank my readers. You guys gave me the confidence to keep writing, and I'm taking creative writing in high school. I even entered a few writing competitions! It's just time for me to move on, and I probably should have done this long ago, but I hope this will give you guys some closure on this maybe-unfinished-forever story.

Thank you all, and for the last time, stay weird!

~Dusky~